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Message Text

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64
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /108 W
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P 122119Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1722

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2196

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, CA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS - PRESS COVERAGE.

REFS : OTTAWA 2171, OTTAWA 2185

1. MARCHAND PRESS CONFERENCE PLAYED STRAIGHT IN FRONT PAGE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL STORY (FROM CANADIAN PRESS WIRE SERVICE) THIS MORNING. REPORTS OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN AS WELCOMING SETTLEMENT BUT AS CRITICAL OF MARCHAND PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVRE. CONSERVATIVE TRANSPORT CRITIC MAZANKOWSKI QUOTED AS STATING AGREEMENT IS A "STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION" AND, ALONG WITH NDP CRITIC BENJAMIN, AS INDICATING MUCH DEPENDS ON WHICH AIRLINES ARE GRANTED THE NEW ROUTES. "IS AIR CANADA GOING TO GET DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?" BENJAMIN REPORTEDLY ASKED.

2. MONTREAL GAZETTE CARRIED SIMILAR STORY FROM SOUTHAM NEWS SERVICE (SNS) BURIED ON INSIDE PAGE. INDICATES MARCHAND "HOPED ALOUD" THAT A COLLAPSE OF THE CHARTER NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT SCUTTLE THE ROUTE AGREEMENT AND QUOTES HIM AS TERMING THE PACKAGE AS "EQUITABLE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES" AND SUFFICIENTLY FORWARD LOOKING "TO TAKE CARE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE TRAFFIC DEMANDS".

3. OTTAWA CITIZEN THIS AFTERNOON CARRIES SIMILAR SNS STORY ON FRONT PAGE. SECOND STORY ON INSIDE PAGE, ALSO FROM SNS,
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EXPANDS COVERAGE SOMEWHAT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF MARCHAND PRESS

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CONFERENCE, BUT DEVOTES MORE ATTENTION TO ROUTE ALLOCATION PROCESS WITHIN CANADA. NOTES THAT FOR FIRST TIME FIVE REGIONAL AIR CARRIERS WILL BENEFIT "AFTER BECOMING FOR THE FIRST TIME FORMALLY PART OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT." THIS STORY PICKS UP CONCEPT OF FIVE-YEAR PHASING IN PERIOD:
QUOTE. THAT, AS WAS LATER EXPLAINED, MEANS THAT SERVICE ON A PARTICULAR ROUTE BY BOTH AMERICAN AND CANADIAN CARRIERS MAY NOT COME ABOUT BEFORE 1978. BUT TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ADDED THAT SERVICE BY AT LEAST ONE AIRLINE WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON MOST OF THE 46 NEW ROUTES BY NEXT YEAR, DEPENDING ON HOW FAST A GIVEN AIRLINE CAN PROVIDE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. UNQUOTE. NO FURTHER DETAIL GIVEN.

4. MARCHAND CONFERENCE GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION ON RADIO AND TV. CBC-TV ALSO PLAY STORY STRAIGHT WITH SOME EMPHASIS ON OPPOSITION WORRIES ABOUT WHICH CARRIERS WOULD GET NEW ROUTES. CTV FOLLOWED ITS NEWS STORY WITH BRIEF COMMENT THAT NEW AGREEMENT WILL REQUIRE RETHINKING OF THEIR FUTURE BY CANADIAN CARRIERS, ESPECIALLY AIR CANADA, WHICH WAS CRITICIZED FOR PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS (DELAYS, CANCELLED FLIGHTS, ETC.) WHICH CRITIC SAID RELATED TO INSUFFICIENT AIRCRAFT AND SERIOUS CREW SHORTAGES. CBC RADIO, OR AT LEAST STATION CBOT OTTAWA, POINTED OUT THAT OTTAWA BOT NO NEW US SERVICES OUT OF THE PACKAGE, A POINT ALSO PICKED UP BY MONTREAL GAZETTE.
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